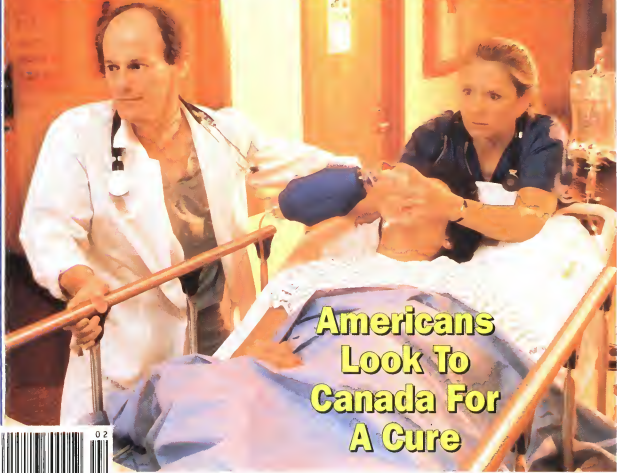


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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE JANUARY 13, 1992 VOL. 131 NO. 2

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## CANADA

### CANADIANS SPEAK OUT

As Canada prepares to mark its 133rd birthday on July 1, thousands of guest patriots like truck driver James Taylor are revealing a passionate love of their homeland. But the new nationalists are fuelled not so much by geography and history as the new fear that the country is on the edge of an abyss. — 12



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### RUNNING OUT OF GAS

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## AN AMERICAN VIEW



## A ticking bomb at the movies

BY FRED BEUNING

Heading for the parking lot after a showing of  *JFK* , a newspaper in suburban New York City was soaked by someone awaking the next performance.

"How was it?" asked the ticket holder, full of anticipation.

"Perfect," stated the first fellow without pausing to elaborate.

It was a moment that would have cheered Oliver Stone, the embattled director who, amid stout proclamations regarding his own bona fides and the fundamentalism of most American elite in government and mass culture, divulged, just like a talking bomb in the pocket of the American public, "I just want to get the people to smell a rat." Stone told Robert Scheer of the *Los Angeles Times*: "I want people to be scared by it and have their consciousness shifted."

Despite the endorsement of certain Jews who may counsel that *JFK* was "perfect," and notwithstanding Stone's claims for the precision quality of his insights, the film is now even valuable to the continuing debate on the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Then, see, the latest episode of *Canoeing* (Harcourt's *Canoeing* series) is a guide to understanding the Kennedy murder in like endeavoring a *Guns & Roses* video with the intent of better apprehending *Maclean's*. Not a chance.

Perfect? As a movie, *JFK* has all the right stuff. The story as *propaganda* — we are discussing a plot to murder a president of the United States, after all — and production values are superb. Stone seeks to deliver a new-found footage with his own staged material, so that many in the audience, particularly younger people, will not easily make the requisite distinction.

He uses footage with such skill that by the time the movie is over, viewers may feel they have traipsed many times up the grassy knoll of Dallas, that they have drawn — at that time notoriety through *Dealey Plaza* — that, like

*Oliver Stone's JFK preaches the wackiest conspiracy theory since President John Kennedy was shot on Nov. 22, 1963*

the assassin, they have sprinted through tights from the back-fence window of the Texas School Book Depository building.

And surely Stone is glib when it comes to integrating a particularly far-reaching brand of background music — percussive strains that seem linked to familiar themes of melancholy and anguish. Yes, indeed, something awful is transpiring here, the music asserts, and if so we also in the country has enough wit to show a warning, Oliver Stone will not follow. Don't dare slip into the overly cerebral. Some you are going to learn who really killed Jack Kennedy!

This approach might be acceptable if *JFK* weren't being marketed as gospel — if Stone stopped assuming that Americans accept perhaps the wackiest conspiracy theory advanced since Kennedy was shot down on Nov. 22, 1963. Stone has adopted, and even redefined, a legendism attributed by former New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison, who argued, without success, that Kennedy — having slain and conserved elements at home and abroad — fell victim to an astonishing right-wing cabal embracing the CIA, FBI, anti-Castro Cubans, the Pentagon and elements of the Dallas police department.

The director's theory failed as the only courtroom test of his theory when a jury acquitted businessman Clay Shaw, who Garrison said played a crucial part in the murder. "Most of the time you smother the facts, then deduce your theories," one of Garrison's former associates, Charles Ward, told the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* in 1983. "But Garrison showed a theory, then he tried to lay his facts. And if the facts didn't fit, he'd say they had been altered by the CIA."

In New Orleans and beyond, many correspondents took a 24-hour look on the question of the Kennedy assassination last, now, more than two decades later. Stone sells Garrison's superheated scenario as though it were downy as argued. In perhaps its most shocking aspect, Stone's movie even holds out the possibility that Lyndon Johnson, Kennedy's vice-president, had a hand in snuffing the chief assassin. Johnson may have been crafty, self-important and tragically paranoid about Vietnam. But an uninvolved co-conspirator in a plot to murder the president of the United States? Please.

Not surprisingly, anyone renting Stone's conclusions is apt to be dismissed in a prime number of the same way that Garrison, who doctored Kennedy in the first place — a tactic that Garrison, who also felt misled by the press, often employed himself. Stone complains that the film has made him far more "in" than "out" and he will not be "in" to "showing" "a lot of these paranoid, psychotic books" written on the East Coast.

Stone ended last best roundly criticized by many reporters for assuming the evidence, but, somehow, the director just doesn't get it. In his interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Stone argued that he merely was concocting a "conspiracy" to the one embodied by the U.S. government. The Warren Commission has already concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy, but Stone prefers a more exotic remedy. "Call me a glib little historian," says Stone.

To say the least, Stone is not alone in suspecting the assassination was never adequately investigated. A *Washington Post* poll in May showed that 58 per cent of those responding thought Kennedy the victim of a conspiracy, while only 41 per cent bought the lone-assassin theory. Gratefully, *Maclean's* must not assume that the American people, at all, deserve to know precisely what happened on that extraordinary day in Dallas.

Judging by his early work, Stone might have been the one to bring such volatile subject matter to the screen. He has made bone and important moves. No wonder by the director's Vietnam combat experience, *Platoon* is a film that should be shown in every studies class. Salvador is a haunting portrait linking U.S. policy to chaos in Central America. But, with *JFK*, Stone begins to spin caprice. The movie is based on the fact that Kennedy was shot, and will prompt any to ask only the wrong questions about Kennedy's death. Whatever he intended this time, Stone did little more than offend on American audiences a "perfect" movie that wasn't nearly good enough.

Fred Beuning is a writer with *Newsday* in New York.

# CANADA SPEAKS OUT

**MANY CITIZENS ARE RESPONDING TO THE COUNTRY'S UNITY CRISIS WITH PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF PATRIOTISM**

In the early morning hours last May 3, Toronto truck driver James Taylor adroitly dodged riotous mobs of hooligans and settled in for the ride home through the rolling Ontario countryside. When the music gave way to the news, the announcer gave the latest black report on the constitutional emergency that has pelted Canada to the verge of breaking up. Appalled at the state of affairs, Taylor slammed his gear gasoline tankler to the side of the highway, where he roared about Canada until the sun came up. As he recalled last week, "I remember thinking, 'Enough is enough. One one else was going to do anything about it, then I had better.'"<sup>1</sup> Within a few months, Taylor had created 15 billboards across Canada, spelling out in large print his own definition of his nation: "My Canada includes Québec." "It has to be said, thousands of Canadians contacted him and offered him so much financial support that he is now planning to extend his billboard campaign. Last week, somewhere, hundreds of joyful Canadians across the country, from Christians to Goliards, began the new year by singing songs and singing O Canada at precisely 12 noon. At the same time, thousands of other Canadians entered 1992 by throwing themselves with renewed vigor into their own projects to rescue Canada from the threat of separation. "There is a quiet patriotism in Canada," Taylor said. "All people need is a vehicle to express it."

As the deeply divided nation approaches its 125th birthday on July 1, thousands of Canadians are reminding themselves in the great debate about the future of the country. The grassroots parades of federalists—art carns reinforcing the intensity of passion of Quebec nationalists—seem to be in part by the new fact that the nation is on the edge of an abyss. Many of the people behind the projects say



Some recording O Canada: trying to rescue Canada from the threat of separation

that by publicly demonstrating their passion for Canada, they are winning the politicians a clear message: Canada remains to much more than the paradoxical top of war-raging between Ottawa and the provinces. One of them is Mike Baskin, who along with 17 other Ottawa residents is publishing a magazine called O Canada: A Citizens Constitutional Express, which contains hundreds of letters and opinions from Canadians on the national crisis. Said Baskin: "One of our motivations for getting together was that we need to create a political climate in which we can talk to one another."

Baskin's sense of dread and frustration underlies the use of patriotism in his billboard campaign. He said: "We have to remind our political class that

politicians will listen again to listen to the people." Both the apprehensions and the misperception that Taylor and Baskin expressed were apparent at two special conferences that Malin's suggested in 1991. The meetings brought together a national forum of 13 Canadians from various walks of life across the country, representing every political point of view from federalist to Quebec separatist. The participants concluded that despite their differences, they shared values as Canadians allowed them to agree on broad sets of joint recommendations to the government and fellow Canadians on how to develop a better nation. After the month-long conference, last month at Chalks Mountain, Malin said: "Ottawa, Marie LaFleur a Quebec sovereigntist, and her colleagues on the forum: 'Their minds and

hearts are open. From there, we can go anywhere—and everywhere."

The celebrated Victoria-based journalist Bruce Buchanan, who has written extensively on the Canadian character, says that the risk of hostile politicians has arrived at a critical time in the nation's history. Said Buchanan: "I Quebec separates, it is the end of Canada—the complete end." As with Keith Spence, whose Ontario Forum on Canada's Future heard from about 700,000 Canadians last autumn, said that politicians would be making a serious mistake to

other Canadians. In Taylor's case, he said that prior to his billboard campaign, he posted 200 bumper stickers carrying his "My Canada includes Québec" message. When he put a sticker on his family truck, motorists waved him down and asked him for one. Later, his campaign, in which people sign the billboard posts before they are even aware of the project, that he needed volunteers to help with promotion. Said Taylor: "Some of the people who signed the billboards even included their phone numbers so that people in Quebec could phone them and ask them how they feel about Canada."

Even within Quebec, new high-profile groups are forming in an attempt to develop a new national consensus. Headed by former Air Canada president Pierre Jeannot, the Montreal-based Friends of Canada formally launched their campaign to foster harmony in Canadian Sept. 6th Vancouver. Jeannot told the city's *Canada Club* at the time that ordinary Canadians have to speak up for Canada. Said Jeannot: "The vast majority of Canadians do not want to see the country broken up."

Other solitary acts of patriotism have also caught the imagination of Canadians. Two months ago, Robert Quinn, a songwriter and radio producer from Moncton, N.B., 50 km west of Halifax, wrote and recorded a song entitled *Christians in Canada* that called on Canadians to share the joy and diversity offered by Canada. It became one of the most widespread records of the Christmas season in Halifax and Calgary (Quinn by the way, is a Jew). Quinn is now hoping to raise money for a national songwriting contest, to be called A Song for Canada, which he hopes to take on a national tour this year. Said Quinn: "This will do more than all the speeches by all the politicians."

The desire to speak up about Canada has even helped to rebirth the nation's national anthem, O Canada, with a new enthusiasm. At the outset of the Gulf War last January, Ross Carlin, a recording radio announcer in Grimsby, Ont., planned to air the national anthem. After discovering that the station did not have a copy, he finally found one at the library. It was an old and antiquated version, said Carlin, and he wrote a letter to a trade publication asking for the recording industry to update the record. The letter brought results when he heard from Toronto record producer Raymond Perreault, who in 1963 helped produce the celebrated *There's A Hole In My Soul* project that brought together Canada's top recording

## National Notes

### GUERRILLA TACTICS

The nation's of the Canadian Gold Rush, a new high-energy food for demand for wheat. The group said that the product from store shelves in Edmonton and Calgary after receiving a threat from a note. A group identifying itself as the "United Right Militia" claimed to have injected liquid into a number of bins in the two cities. The group said that it had been "warned, scared and spooked with various drugs" during the development of the bin. Scientists at the University of Alberta who worked on the project said that the rats that they used did not suffer.

### MEVER ON SUNDAY

After allowing the province's retailers to remain open on Sundays during December, Ontario's new government announced that it will not amend its Retail Business Holidays Act to permit restaurant Sunday shopping. Solicitor General Allan Rock said that the province's police to charge any retailer who foots the shopping law. But a Manitoba, Industry Minister Eric Sprotman said that the government was considering allowing stores to open on Sundays to help the province's retail industry, but not by the recession and cross-border shopping.

### AN ALMA DISCLOSURE

Alberta Municipal Affairs Minister Raymond Spivak announced that he is quitting the provincial Conservative Party for the Reform party in the next federal election. Spivak served in the 1980s as an cabinet minister in the Social Credit administration of Robert Hawke, father of Robert Leveson. Spivak, said he did not join the Tories until 1989.

### SEIZING EXTRADITION

The Dutch government announced that it will ask Canada to extradite Vancouver resident Jacob Lodiges, convicted in a robbery in 1946 for two crimes who was in the Netherlands. Lodiges arrived in Canada in 1961 from Paraguay and became a Canadian citizen in 1971. Lodiges is opposing a Federal Court decision that allowed the federal government to strip him of his citizenship in November.

### GATTY DECLINES

Alberta Premier Donald Garty has declined to meet with the joint parliamentary committee on constitutional reform when it comes to a table in Ottawa on Jan. 22. Other cabinet members will meet with the committee in his place. Garty's office said that there are good reasons for the premier's decision—among them a planned winter vacation.



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ITT Sheraton THE TRAVEL CHOICE

stars to raise money for Bilingual Junior relief. Over the past few months, Parrott and Carlini, assembled more than 200 of Canada's top singers in both languages and more than 70 musicians to produce one vocal and orchestral version of the anthem.

Several large companies, including Molson Heurich Ltd., which publishes *Maclean's*, contributed as corporate sponsors. The new record version—both recordings have now been released—features such leading performers as contralto Maurine Pomeroy, balladist Rita MacNeil, rocker Alanis Myrie and country

• The 125 Gold Song Contest, a national contest sponsored by the federal department of communications, is open to any Canadian who wants to write a song celebrating Canada's 125th birthday.

• The Canadian Federation of Municipalities is offering English- and French-speaking commissioners and encouraging citizen exchanges between them.

• Kinesics and Kinetics service clubs are now organizing a Parade to Be a Canadian Tour. At conventions at schools and universities across Canada, children can sign flags that will be



They're a sense of anticipation born out of apprehension and exasperation

and-writer star Tommy Harkin. The patriotic reflection in the national anthem was not restricted to English Canada. In fact, some of Quebec's top singers, including the Chœur de Montclair and Percy Clavel, took part. And Parrott and Carlini for many of the artists the experience was so moving that the "bars on the back of the neck mood up." He added: "At the end, no one could understand why there was such outpouring over the future of the country." A video of the recording process will form part of a soon-to-be released program on the CTV network on March 1.

Other stars are also preparing to lead their names to the cause of Canadian unity. Celebrity Canadian comedian John Candy, who now lives in Los Angeles, has said that he will make some appearances at a series of national unity block parties being organized by Winnipeg teacher Jeanne Thibeau. Some of those parties are planned for Quebec. Among dozens of other events designed to inspire Canadian love of their country.

• Discovery Box, a national school-based program organized with the collaboration of teachers from across the country, will encourage students to fill boxes with information about themselves and exchange them with students in different parts of Canada, including Quebec.

Involved at this year's Canada Day celebration on Parliament Hill.

• Marking anniversary: Alan Black of Ottawa, Ont., has designed a national unity flag that includes the red maple leaf and refers to our native soil/culture and provincial and Canadian coats of arms.

• A group of few firms from across the country will provide a full-time number that people can call to discuss constitutional topics with their advisers or seek expertise for meetings on the Constitution.

For his part, Spence noted that if while Canadians traditionally find events displays of nationalism enjoyable in excess of nationalism, the level of frustration in the country has reached the point where people are beginning to speak out. He and that there should be more youth exchanges among the various parts of Canada and cheap airfare to allow young Canadians to travel freely across the country. Spence also said that it is now critical that people speak to one another over the heads of the politicians. That appears to be happening, as Canadians speak out about their love of Canada—and how desperately they want the nation to survive.

TOM PENNELL with correspondence reports

## Another 'last chance'

Ottawa pins its hopes on five conferences

It is time was a year ago, the occasion, the inaugural meeting of the *Colours of Peace* on Canada's future, as St. John, N.B. and by the group 12 conferences asked their hopes for the fledgling

state for literature on Public Policy will be held a meeting in Montreal from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 as proposals for Canada's economic state. Then, the Niagara Institute, based at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., will convene a Toronto conference



Clark: a plea to rescue a flagging constitutional reform process

from Feb. 7 to 9 to deal with Quebec as a distinct society, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the government's proposed Canada clause. The conference will conclude with a joint session on several constitutional changes in Ottawa from Feb. 14 to 16.

Different groups of up to 250 people, including experts, members of advocacy groups, politicians and others, are being invited to each conference. Arthur Keegstra, the government's coordinator of the conferences, said that the five institutions received 1,700 names of individual experts, associations and other groups to help them with the selection process. Participation by ordinary citizens, who had been through a national advertising campaign launched on Dec. 31 to apply to attend the conferences, will be limited to about 40 per

meeting. Representatives of the institutions involved in Ottawa last weekend to choose individual from about 1,500 applications.

Keegstra positively discounts the Conservative government from any direct control of the conferences. "The selection process starts with the institutions," he said. "The only thing the government did was stipulate that these conferences had to be representative—that you couldn't, for instance, have a bunch of white males from Toronto." Still, some observers say that the institutions themselves, many of whom have in the past advised Ottawa, may be perceived to be too close to the government. Stan Juba, director of the University of Ottawa's political science department, "believed everything Ottawa has done is the fact that they are dealing with people who are close to them."

There are also concerns that some of the institutions may bring a bias to bear on the fact they have already made up their minds about the issues. The C.D. Howe Institute, for one, is perceived to be affected by its close links to big business. ARBC has repeatedly cautioned about the perils of decentralization. And the Canada West Foundation has argued for Senate reform. But, said APC president Timothy O'Brien, "We have chosen a process to ensure we have a broad cross-section from across the country and that our particular viewpoints can't dominate the process." According to D. Bove president Thomas Kertson, "We are going to virtually every organization, ranging from chambers of commerce to social workers' associations—a very broad spectrum."

For its part, the government is clearly hoping for the conferences to rescue the flagging constitutional process. Montreal from the meetings will likely be incorporated into the final report, due by Feb. 24, that will be prepared by the joint parliamentary committee on constitutional reform. On the basis of that report, Ottawa will then draft its final constitutional proposals, which are expected to be presented to the country by May. Stan Juba, who has been the spokesman for the Spence committee, "We are now involved in a wide-ranging discussion—what could be better?" But, with Ottawa's deadlines looming, those discussions are taking place under strict time constraints—and at a time of great national uncertainty.

GLEN ALLEN with E. KATE FULTON and NANCY WOOD in Ottawa



Toronto black protest rally, 1990; to supporters, Lavee is a selfless crusader

## Toronto's firebrand

*Dudley Lavee has earned respect—and enemies*

**T**he fluorescent lighting in the downtown Toronto church basement cast an unflattering glow over the audience. On a small circle at the front of the room, a tall, gang-dance-posture black bearded and a worn grey down-pipe sat over a turntable. A slender speaker at the front of the room, reminiscent of the angry 1960s, Dudley Lavee was exhorting 36 middle-aged left-wing activists gathered at a four-hour meeting last month to become more militant in the fight against the racism that he claimed was deeply entrenched among Toronto police. "We have to bring the city of Toronto to a standstill," thundered Lavee. "We have the power of the people and we must use it as we are to get notice."

Such inflammatory pronouncements have earned Lavee, 53, both wide admiration and substantial cause to revulsion among fellow Torontonians. The year of dwelling with police have already created personal conflicts between him and certain officers, and both sides are now engaged in a remarkable war of attrition. Lavee's role as a persistent, sharp-

tongued critic of the police—and the force's strong response to him—provides an illuminating window into the vortex of racial politics in Canada's largest city. Supporters of the Jamaica-born immigration counselor call him a selfless crusader against racism. "He is the moral guide of the movement," says Boris Minko, a Toronto social and black activist. But among his critics, many of them on Toronto's 7,700-member police force, Lavee is reviled as a demagogue following a self-serving second career as a spokesman for extremists among the city's 282,000 blacks. Said Arthur Lyeen, president of the Metro Toronto Police Association: "Lavee has taken unfortunate accidents and used them to whip up animosity."

A series of brushes with the law has brought the two views of Lavee into sharp contrast. Last August, a provincial court jury found him guilty of assaulting his 24-year-old wife on his yacht, Monica. Lavee is appealing the verdict. Then, last October, police charged Lavee—who owns a living as a private insurance consultant—with several counts related to

swapping illegal stolen boat keys across the U.S.-Canada border, a charge that he has denied. That trial is scheduled to start on March 16. He also faces a \$50,000 slander suit that the Metropolitan Toronto Police Association launched last year. According to Lavee and his supporters, those cases represent a vendetta by Toronto police determined to silence their most effective antagonist.

Lavee's detractors say that in leaving on the course of racial friction in Toronto, he has abominably exploited a spite of police about signs of black progress for his own political ends. One critic in Gordon Mathew, 34, a white detective with the Toronto police who had several encounters with Lavee while serving as a beat cop in a largely black neighborhood. "If we should someone—rightly or wrongly—the Dudley Lavees of the world would suddenly call it racism," said Rudack, who claims that Lavee is seeking power and publicity.

At the other extreme, supporters, including liberal whites and many members of the black community, find Lavee as an anti-racism hero. Among those detractors, however, are at least some whose own outlooks are at variance, if not more, so that Lavee's is no recent electoral, social, racial black newspaper, *Power to the People*, raised against white society. "If Dudley spends a day in jail," the editorial said, "we will have lost another battle against the white-supremacist, colonialist, capitalist—who have sucked much from our blood."

For his own part, Lavee acknowledges that his message is radical—but he insists that to

the racism that he says he encountered as an immigrant to Canada from Jamaica. He started his working life early—as a welder's apprentice at the age of 14 at St. Thomas, Jamaica. In 1955, when he was 21, Lavee moved to England, then arrived in Toronto a decade later, where he worked as a welder for the next 10 years.

Lavee says that he soon learned about abuse of blacks in Toronto. He had developed an admiration for Marcus Garvey, a black leader in the United States who rose to prominence in the 1890s preaching self-reliance and the unity of all people of African descent. And in 1973, Lavee was hired as executive director of the Toronto chapter of Garvey's Universal Negro College of Education, Association, an 11-million-member international organization that was founded in 1914. In Toronto, Lavee says, he found dozens of former students of police brutality against blacks. "There was an onslaught of police attacks against black people. They would drag them in protesters' protest parties, put their heads in toilets and beat them with truncheons." Police denied those accusations, and no charges were laid.

Lavee's involvement escalated in 1978, when a policeman shot to death a black man who had led the officer over the head with his own billy club while police were trying to arrest the man's brother. Lavee and a small band of ill-mannered activists held demonstrations to demand that prosecutors charge the officer with murder. But a coroner's inquest concluded that the officer had acted properly.

Since that incident, according to an analysis of cases, Toronto police have shot 13 black men—two of them fatally. The most recent fatality was 44-year-old Lester Donaldson, who was gunned down at a rooming house in 1983 where he pulled a pistol knife in the presence of four officers. A constable charged with investigating the case was acquitted. More recently, Toronto police rounded three suspected black robbery suspects in the space of four weeks during the fall.

With each shooting, Lavee raised against what he called unprovoked violence on the police force and demanded the arrest of officers involved. He claims that the incidents stem from a long-term, long-term attitude among some police—at least towards black suspects.

Lavee drove that point home at a demonstration last year after Const. Brian Ripston, 35, wounded Martin Neal, a 36-year-old black suspect who shot a police officer twice in a borrowed car and then tried to run Ripston down. The constable involved in that case was charged, twice, and ultimately acquitted. Speaking to 500 protesters in front of the Ontario legislature, Lavee called Toronto police "the most racist and murderous force in North America." That statement prompted

because maybe they're going to end up shooting somebody."

Still, the police association's Lyeen asserts that each of the officers who shot black suspects had a right to draw his firearm in the circumstances. He insists that although six of those officers have faced charges of murder, attempted murder, all of them have been acquitted. And clearly, blacks are not the only victims of police shootings in Toronto. The 13 shootings of blacks were from a total of 59 suspects that Toronto police have either killed or wounded since 1980. Still, that amounts to almost 30 per cent of the total—proportionally higher than the black's average per cent share of Toronto's population. Lyeen explains the difference by saying that "more blacks are being shot because they're committing a disproportionate number of crimes to their population," a statement that he acknowledges is based on personal observation. The Toronto police do not keep crime statistics based on race, and the issue of race and crime is a volatile one, as demonstrated during last fall's Toronto campaign campaign. When James Richardson, the anti-racism candidate—stated that an analysis of police arrests on major crimes supported the conclusion that blacks commit more crimes, he was denounced by his rivals as racist and accused her of failing racial tensions.



Lavee personally confers with some police officers

the police association, which represents officers' interests, to file its slander suit, which is still in the pre-trial stage.

But since Toronto's share of at least some of Lavee's criticism. Said John Lightner, a University of Toronto law professor who specializes in the development of urban black America. "I think blacks in Toronto have a very legitimate complaint. The police's use of gun against shooting black people because they're holding a knife in their own hands." For his part, Arthur Anonow, a 31-year-old Ghanaian-Canadian who works as a security guard, said, "If I got into a problem with a friend, my wife or anyone else who is black, I'm afraid to call the cops

Some prominent leaders within the black community also express reservations about Lavee, saying that he diverts attention from some of the real issues by blurring white society for the community's problem. Said Geoffrey Lewis, a Jamaica-born lawyer who worked in a federal prosecutor for three years before entering private practice. "The community has to say, 'Yes, there is a part of the black community that is law. There are individuals with drug problems, violent crimes.'" Still, Lavee says that his own experience with black defendants has convinced him to the full extent of racial discrimination in the police system. Said Lavee, who plays on the police association basketball team: "What Dudley does is bring these issues to the forefront." It is he who is to be commended for the reality of the various charges against Lavee. What is slowly clear is that a 35-year-old father over the province of racial equality has taken on a new and extremely personal dimension for one of the country's most outspoken black advocates.

PHIL KAHILA with KEN GREEN in Toronto



YUGOSLAVIA

# A fragile agreement

Serbia and Croatia agree to a ceasefire

Six months of warfare destroyed dozens of towns and villages and killed 6,600 people, many of them civilians. But last week, after 34 failed ceasefires, the warring combatants finally appeared willing to give peace a chance. On his fifth mission to Yugoslavia, UN special envoy Cyrus Vance won the support of the political leadership of Serbia and Croatia, the key adversaries in the Yugoslav drama, for the deployment of UN peacekeepers to disputed areas of Croatia. That reprieve's declaration of independence in June sparked a rebellion by the region's Serbian minority—and military action by the Serb-led federal army. Then, Vance met with civil military commanders, who agreed to a 12th ceasefire. As the deadline at 6 p.m. on Jan. 3 passed, observers reported that some battalions across Croatia fell silent, creating a mood of cautious optimism in the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade. The next morning, Croatian and Serbian forces clashed in the village of Srebrenica.



Debris in Vukovar, Serbo-Croatian



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and one Croatian died. As well, Croatia's Zagreb radio reported a Serbian mortar attack on Zrenjevac Thursday, near the coastal town of Dubrovnik. Still, Yugoslav leaders and foreign diplomats expressed hope that the overall truce would hold. Under its terms, federal troops will leave Croatia and be replaced by up to 10,000 UN peacekeepers, possibly including Canadians. Some 700,000 refugees would return to their home towns—many of them, like the Bosnian town of Vukovar, in ruins. The plan also calls for the population in contested territories to eventually vote on whether to remain in Croatia or to join Serbia.

But late on the day of the ceasefire deadline, pro-Serbian groups meeting in Belgrade adopted a convention that could interfere with such plans. They proposed a new, smaller, Serbian-dominated Yugoslav to replace the disintegrating federation. It was unclear whether the borders of the new federation would include Croatia territory that Serbs had occupied. That would be a contentious claim, because the European Community has announced that it will formally recognize Croatia's independence on Jan. 15, unless it is vetoed. Serbian diplomats expressed their opposition to the new federation. They would be a contentious claim, because the European Community has announced that it will formally recognize Croatia's independence on Jan. 15, unless it is vetoed.

As the latest ceasefire took effect, Vance flew to London for a meeting with Lord Carrington, the chairman of UN-sponsored Yugoslav peace talks. Carrington later announced that he would reconvene the conflict talks in Brussels this week. And a source close to Vance said that the envoy might make a recommendation to new UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali when "days and weeks, not months," to send peacekeepers to Croatia. In Ottawa, Editorial Affairs spokesman Robert Moore told MinnPost that if the United Nations requests Canadian participation, the government may contribute an infantry battalion of about 800 personnel.

Still, a major question remained over the attitude of many of the armed groups of Serbian irregulars operating in Croatia who were not included in the truce talks. But Vance said that UN forces might tolerate a minimum threshold of violence as long as there was no large-scale conflict between the federal army and the Croatian National Guard.

As the weekend began, peace seemed to be in the air. In Srebrenica, near the Adriatic coast, the army stopped shelling surrounding villages. In the Croatian capital of Zagreb, anti-aircraft fire, which had begun in the early countdown to the truce, stopped abruptly. And fighting broke out in Gornji, the recent site of Serbo-Croatian battles. But since the 12th ceasefire, the Balkan peninsula has been calmer for a long time. And combatants on both sides of the Yugoslav conflict were clearly aware that a spark could still ignite their smoldering hatreds.

ANDREW DELANEY with correspondent reports

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Menem and wife Zulema Yusa before the couple's resignation the incumbent president is familiar with controversy

## Letter from Buenos Aires

# A recipe for success

In the crowded splendor of the restored Colón Theatre, an international assembly of 3,000 oil executives and politicians was listening to an evocative tape of oil and struggle by contemporary Argentine composer José Blasquez. The classical, almost ethereal tape seemed a world apart from the steamy criticism of its fortress on still strained nightly oil gutters in Buenos Aires's rawhide Son Telen sagelike district. But then, Argentina itself, under reformist President Carlos Saul Menem, is struggling to change its decades-old image as a despotic, profligate Third World nation squandering its resources through endemic corruption and costly military conflicts. "Menem can pull this off," oilman Alberto Mason, vice-president of Buenos Aires-based Flugetrol SA, recently told *Machina*. "Our culture is ready for it," he added. "Five years ago, no, but today, yes—ask anybody who takes public transport, taxis on the street at home, uses the telephone."

When Menem won Argentina's 1989 presidential election, he faced formidable challenges: 5,000-per-cent annual inflation, a \$90-billion foreign debt and a fledgling democracy of 35 million people still reeling from the legacy of the brutal 1976-1982 military dictatorship. Menem introduced what some observers called a Latin American version of perestroika, an economic program as radical and wrenching

as the one Mikhail Gorbachev attempted in the Soviet Union. After four decades of tight control contra the economy, Menem launched an ambitious plan to control inflation, slash the national deficit and privatize, by the end of 1993, all of Argentina's state-run industries. "The reform of the state is an absolute goal," Menem acknowledged in a recent speech to the World Petroleum Congress in Buenos Aires. With that, he announced that Argentina's once tightly protected petroleum industry was open for foreign investment. "Argentina won't let you down," Menem told the oil executives. "It has given up its rhetoric—dropped its ideological positions."

In fact, Menem's austerity program marks a sharp departure from the former tenets of his own Justicial Party, part of the ultra-nationalist, pro-labor Peronist movement founded by military strongman Juan Domingo Perón in the early 1940s. And Menem's privatization scheme, which has thrown thousands of state employees out of work, has alienated the country's powerful unions. But where Menem differs from Perón in substance, he appears to emulate the charismatic dictator as his high-profile, popular style. The son of Syrian immigrants, the flamboyant Menem, 61, drives race cars and a chelon photographed in the company of beautiful actresses. The national press corps covers his activities almost around the clock, from his tennis matches with

Argentine sports star Gabriela Sabatini to charity dinner parties with the social elite of Buenos Aires, where he is a thuggish presence.

Menem is familiar with controversy. In 1989, he lashed his scorned wife, Zulema Yusa, out of the official presidential residence during a summer marital dispute. She has since filed for divorce, and often berates him in the media for his economic policies. So does soccer superstar Diego Maradona. The Wayne Gretzky of Argentine sport, Maradona was named the athlete's century-most notable broke last year. Maradona was openly critical of his former friend, complaining recently that "petroleum executives had been paid in other countries, and many workers are in trouble." At the same time, Menem's administration has suffered from corruption scandals—including the arrest of Aníbal Yusa, his sister-in-law and appointments secretary, on drug-smuggling charges last year.

Still, such attacks do not appear to have taken a political toll on Menem's popularity. The Peronists' substantial votes in national elections last summer were widely seen as a vote of confidence in this five-month economic policy. Menem's government has plans to put every state enterprise in the formerly closed-shop economy in the sector block, from prime oil leases to inefficient dockyards, long-shelved utilities, banks and even the military's own armaments complex. Already, foreign buyers have snapped up the telephone system, and a group led by Spain's Iberian Airways bought the national airline. "We are seeing a great moment of success," corporate lawyer Justo Norton told a recent seminar held for Canadian businessmen at Canada's new TAFE Buenos embassy. He predicted that within five years, foreign entrepreneurs will be rushing to invest in Argentina's energy sector.

So far, the most significant success of the government's economic program has been to control hyperinflation. From its four-digit peak in 1989, the annual inflation rate fell to 90 per cent in 1991—and it was less than half a per cent for the month of November. As a result, foreign investment increased, and trading reserves soared on the once beleaguered Buenos Aires Stock Exchange. Last August, the New York City-based Business Travel Co. paid \$485,000 for a seat on the exchange, more than the price of a seat on the New York Stock Exchange. And in December, when the newly privatized phone company, Telefonos de Argentina, paid 30 per cent of its shares up for sale, it attracted more than \$1.8 billion in bids from three small investors.

Despite such assurances, many Argentine businessmen are now expressing optimism about the future. "Basically, things are back on the right track," declared Luis Alana, whose bed-and-breakfast on overlooks the historic Barrio Chacarero in Ushuaia, a windswept city of 60,000 on Tierra del Fuego, 3,400 km south of the capital. Still, Alana said that the government has much work to do. "There is so much to do," Alana complained. "The banks won't lend."

At the same time, many Argentine experts agree that Menem's austerity program, supported by Washington and the International Monetary Fund, has cut into government services. At the University of Buenos Aires, professors have protested reductions in federal grants to higher-level economic studies. Maria Cristina Reid, demagogue up outside the school, denounced the cuts recently against education cuts, complained. "I work in four different schools, day and night. That is 51 hours weekly—and all I earn is \$500 monthly. It is not good. Once several costs \$1,100 monthly and I must support my parents."

In fact, street protests are almost a daily affair in Buenos Aires, a testing city of 13 million. After the government last off 500 workers

at its Sonoma steel plant in October, a crowd of 5,000 protested outside Casa Rosada, the state presidential residence. "Workers feel the government has let them down," said a tractor operator who requested anonymity. "Menem came in with the workers' party, our old Peronista party—he is in a wrong thing with Argentine eyes."

Such discontent has prompted widespread expressions of fear about a violent eruption that could destabilize Argentina's young democracy. And history gives the government ample reason for concern. The path that came to power in 1976 and a wave of social unrest shattered an estimated 3,000 lives and other critics, killed many others—and imprisoned Menem himself for five years. In 1983, after Argentina's devastating defeat by Britain in the Falkland Islands war, a demoralized military surrendered power to democratically elected President Raúl Alfonsín—who promptly initiated legal proceedings against senior officers for human rights abuses. Alfonsín's actions provoked three military rebellions during his tenure.

After Menem assumed office in 1989, he moved to appease the armed forces by permitting military officers and calling for national reconciliation. But easy Argentineans criticize Menem for these per-



Workers loading grain at Buenos Aires port: privatizing state enterprises

sons—and accuse these fellow citizens of deliberately ignoring the former junta's wrongdoings. "We are like the Germans after the Nazis," said radio reporter Carlos Alberto Gersolde, 25. "It is difficult to accept that this society permitted these acts." And each Thursday at 3 p.m., the mothers of the disappeared, those who disappeared during the junta's rule, parade quietly around the Plaza de Mayo wearing black scarves embroidered with the names of their missing children. "We wish to stir consciences," Menem's cousin told *Machina* during a recent march. "The guilty are still walking these same streets."

Despite such criticisms, Menem's success in curbing inflation and attracting foreign investment appears, so far at least, to have bought him a measure of public support. But the next few years are certain to prove difficult. The legislature has yet to approve many of the president's privatization deals. And some foreign analysts express concern that Menem will have to reverse his austerity program if there is an upswing of social unrest. The key question for Argentina and foreign investors alike is whether the people exposed to the shock of reform will be patient—and whether they will trust that Menem's harsh economic course will ultimately put more food on their tables.

JOHN HURWIE in Buenos Aires



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Imperial drilling rig near Cold Lake, Alta.; employees face an uncertain future in a shrinking industry

## BUSINESS

# RUNNING OUT OF GAS

For most of this century, Imperial Oil Ltd. has been the giant of the Canadian energy industry—a staunchly conservative company that generated large profits as predictably as an automatic engine spews carbon monoxide. But these days, executives of the Toronto-based company are looking a little to the side. Lately this month, Imperial Oil chairman Hayden Hynes is expected to announce the first full-year operating losses in the company's 113-year history—an estimated 1990 shortfall of as much as \$50 million on revenues of more than \$10 billion. Already, Hynes has from 1983 salaries for Imperial's 6,970 managerial and administrative employees at 1991 levels and announced that the company's 6,000 blue-collar workers will receive a maximum three-per-cent wage increase next year. Privately, however, company officials have told *McGraw-Hill's* that even broader measures are imminent—including a

## IMPERIAL OIL IS PLANNING MASSIVE CUTBACKS TO ADAPT TO HARSH NEW REALITIES IN WORLD MARKETS

plant shut-out of as many as 1,500 positions from Imperial's 12,500-member workforce.

In part, Imperial's problems are a reflection of the battered state of the Canadian energy industry. According to a report last week by the federal government's Petroleum Monitor-

ing Agency, energy companies across the country lost \$843 million on revenues of \$36.2 billion in the first nine months of 1991. That compares with a \$1.6-billion industry profit on revenues of \$37.5 billion in the same period of 1990. "In 1990, the optimism in the oil-and-gas industry will continue to be an over-optimism," said Hines Mevius, vice-president of the Calgary-based Canadian Petroleum Association. He added that there's still a lot of restructuring going on. Many companies are at the point where they have cut their staff levels to the bone.

Many of Imperial's current problems stem from its \$5-billion acquisition of Tesoro Canada Inc. of Toronto in 1989. In a single stroke, Imperial acquired an additional 3,000 employees, swelling its total workforce to over 15,000 and adding another \$5 billion. At the same time, the company was forced to contend with volatile crude oil prices, depressed natural gas prices

and recession-weakened demand for its refined petroleum products. Subsidized with huge overhead expenses and an unusually bureaucratic management structure, Imperial, 70-per-cent owned by Exxon Corp. of New York City, found itself dipping behind its smaller, more agile rivals in the struggle to squeeze profits out of an increasingly competitive industry.

Even the short-lived surge in crude oil prices to almost \$47 a barrel following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990, did nothing to ease that pressure. As prices began to decline to world pre-invasion levels, Imperial's executives began searching for ways to improve the company's efficiency. In October, 1990, Hynes announced a staff-reduction program that promised a year's pay and expense benefits to employees who agreed to resign. About 3,000 employees have accepted those terms, Imperial spokesman Don Baxter said last week. But the cost to Imperial has been substantial: over \$300 million. Declined Steven Barker, oil analyst with Stewarts McCleary Securities Ltd. in Toronto: "It's refreshing to hear them finally admit that they need to scale down and get a grip. The costs have been out of control at Imperial for years."

In fact, even the severe downturn appears to have been anticlimactic. In a videotaped presentation to the company's employees last month, Hynes said that Imperial had realized "an absolutely devastating year in terms of profit" during 1990 because of low crude oil prices and weak demand. He added that he did not expect conditions to improve significantly during the remainder of the decade. Declared, Hynes: "These trends have only become more evident within the last year, and they are creating us to re-examine the fundamentals of our business and to prepare plans to respond accordingly."

The expected elimination of 1,500 jobs is likely to be done without the costly measures that accompanied the 1990 staff-reduction program. According to industry sources, in another cost-cutting measure, Imperial last week increased fuel prices at the head-office cafeteria to reflect the company's rising operating expenses as a result of its takeover of Tesoro. In 1991, as well, Imperial introduced charges for towels and toiletries at its Toronto-area employee health clubs, and office cleaning has been reduced to every other night. And the company expects to realize further savings by consolidating its seven of-

fices in the Toronto area in the suburb of North York.

Meanwhile, in Calgary, Imperial's Esso Resources subsidiary, which explores for and produces the company's oil and natural gas reserves, will continue its aggressive program of asset sales. Over the past two and a half years, Esso has sold \$1.6 billion worth of oil and gas-producing properties in a bid to raise cash and consolidate its holdings in Western Canada. Says Peter Kerkhove, an oil industry analyst with company stockholder Midland Wayne Capital Inc. in Calgary: "Big oil used to think it could reduce risk by owning a small piece of every property. They are only starting to realize that you only reduce risk by knowing what you're doing."

Imperial's extensive national refining and marketing network is also vulnerable as the company continues to shed assets. In its most profitable business—in Ontario, for one, Imperial currently has two refineries to supply a market where gold margins have been eroded by intense competition from independent gasoline marketers who are importing cheaper gasoline from the United States. In southwestern Ontario, gas has sometimes sold at the pump for less than 50 cents a litre, a price that makes profits almost impossible for Canadian refiners. The company also has two smaller refineries in other parts of the country, in B.C. and Alberta that industry observers say could be closed because it is cheaper to import already refined petroleum products from the United States to serve those areas. Said Jan Dick, vice-president and director at First Marathon Securities Ltd. in Toronto: "Imperial has continued to incur a 25-per-cent share of a



Hayden Hynes: a 'devastating year'

national product market that is going no where." Indeed, in a recent employee newsletter, Imperial president Robert Petersen predicted that consumption of petroleum products would not recover sufficiently following the recession. "We expect the situation to persist for some major reevaluation in the industry," he said in the newsletter.

As Imperial struggles to transform itself into a leaner and more flexible company, its management can perhaps take some comfort in the fact that Canada's other major petroleum producers are enduring much of the same ailments. But for the employees who face an uncertain future in a shrinking industry, that is cold comfort indeed.

DEBORAH McLEOD

## Business Notes

### ZAIR'S TROUBLES

Co-chairman of Zair Corp., a U.S. subsidiary of Toronto-based Prologis Jewellers Ltd., moved last week to resign his presidency in reaction to the world's largest jewelry retail chain announced that it will close 400 of its 2,000 stores and freeze 600 employees in losses totaling \$40 million. A spokesman said that Prologis' Canadian operations, which employ 2,000 people in 200 stores, will not be affected.

### THE BULLS PARTY

The Dow Jones Industrial average ended 1990 at a record 2,846.35, an 89 per cent increase from the year earlier, closing the week even higher, at 3,205.43. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 composite index also posted record gains, closing 1990 at 3,512.34, up 7.9 per cent from the year before, but still well below its record of 4,112.26 set in August, 1987. The 700 closed the week at 4,113.47.

### MOVING DOWN

The Bank of Canada cut the bank rate 25 basis points to 7.46 per cent, its lowest level in almost five years. It was the first cut in two weeks, after the planning committee had forced the central bank to resist the broadening rate as an effort to halt the dollar's decline. The dollar closed the week at 87.33 cents (U.S.) up 1.63 cents from a week earlier.

### ANOTHER BLACK PURCHASE

Canadian media tycoon Conrad Black, whose consortium recently won control of Australia's John Fairfax Pty. Ltd. newspaper group, is now looking to buy more Canadian media. The deal would include the John Robert Maxwell, Black's Vancouver-based Hollinger Inc., announced that it is bidding for Maxwell's 64-per-cent stake in *Node's Publishing*, which owns *Malvern*, lower's second-largest circulation daily.

### NO BUD IN SIGHT

Despite budget battle protesting farmers in Canberra, Australia, that the United States will not drop its subsidies on wheat exports. The farm lobby claims that the subsidies cost the U.S. government a year in lost income. Bush, on a four-day Pacific tour, said that the main objective of the subsidies is "to force the European Community to stop its avalanche of subsidized exports." The dispute over agricultural subsidies has been the main stumbling block to reaching an agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The five-year-old talks may collapse if an agreement is not reached by the latest deadline, Dec. 15.

# More pain, some gain

## Forecasters predict a slow recovery in 1992

On various occasions during 1991, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and President George Bush noted that the North American economy would see rebound from one of the deepest recessions since the 1930s, but while interest and inflation rates declined dramatically over the course of the year, those reductions failed to spark a strong, widespread recovery. And in the months leading up to Christmas, retail had registered in Canada jumped to record levels, while several major corporations in both countries announced plans to lay off thousands of workers. To assess the prospects for the coming year, Maclean's Senior Writer Patricia Clarkson talked to a range of business leaders, politicians and economists. Their comments:

**HAKE ZAVONI,**  
president and chief executive officer,  
Woodwards Ltd.,  
Toronto

I would like to think that 1992 will be wonderful, but all the indications are that it is going to be tough. If there is any recovery at all in retailing, it is going to be very, very slow. Our customers are now very risk-conscious. We are planning our inventory and overstocks with the awareness that it is probably not going to be a wonderful year.

The only thing that showed signs of life this Christmas was merchandise that was reduced in price. That is unfortunate for retailers—because you cannot make any money that way. When you look at actual bookshelves, you see that they are in the thousands. But we only hear about the big names. The truth is that we are overstocked, and that this Christmas was long overdue. But it is not a pleasant one. However, we are continuing with our plans to open new stores in British Columbia and Alberta in the next few years. You have to hold for better times. If you sit back and do nothing, you are not there when things turn around.

**MURIN MCKEILL,**  
chairman, Economic Council of Canada,  
Ottawa

We expect to see a very slow healing process, after two years of pain and hardship. Interest rates are likely to go even lower—and we need much lower inflation. There are the antibiotics that will allow us to begin the healing process and start growing again. That should involve faster growth and, we hope, some improvement to the unemployment rate, as well.

Befond of all that will be the new foundation

that we've made for ourselves. A lot of efficient production facilities have been shut down or reorganized, and we should be in a much better position to cope with intense international competition. But the new year will still be tough for many people because the evidence of recession is all around us. In the early stages the growth will be mainly in the sectors that are sensitive to interest rates, such as housing, as well as replacement sales and other things that people buy when they move into a new house.

We also expect to see a stronger recovery in corporate profits, which should begin to output increases as a result of lower wage and interest costs. As that happens, we will start to see new investments, because companies have to install new technology to face new competitors.

**ISRAEL (IZZY) ASPER,**  
chairman, CanWest  
Global Communications Corp.,  
Vancouver

Last year, we were able to support our weaker areas—in the Pacific—out of Vancouver and Toronto. But you cannot do that if you are a small operator. In future, broadcasters are going to have to join forces. All of us are concerned about the long-term future, with its 100-channel/weekend and digitalizing strategy is needed in that new environment. The recession has also taken us toll and will continue to have an impact in 1992, contrary to what everyone has been saying. In some areas, it is new in and worse than a year ago—especially in the Pacific and Quebec.

**FLOYD LAURENSEN,**  
mayor of Ontario,  
Toronto

We believe that the worst is behind us and we anticipate growth in 1992. For instance, Ontario lost 250,000 jobs last year. But this year, we

hope to create about 200,000. Still, we anticipate that unemployment will stay at over nine per cent, which is very high for Ontario. We think that new jobs are going to come in new areas, like telecommunications and computers, rather than in the sectors where jobs have disappeared. And it is going to be a struggle. Provincial government revenues will likely fall in the first year, but that could be a problem, with anticipated increases in health costs and increased educational expenditure. So we are reviewing all of our costs and looking at new sources of revenues, such as video lotteries. There is also a problem with reducing things on our three. I don't think that it is as accurate that Ontario has had 60 per cent of the layoffs in this country in the last year and a half, even though this province only has 48 per cent of the workforce. We have over half of the manufacturing capacity in Canada, and that sector has really been battered.

**FRANK STROHMAN,**  
chairman, Magas International Inc.,  
Markham, Ont.

I think that there will be a small improvement in the automobile industry in North America. I feel that we have reached the bottom, but we must get a lot of things in motion to move ahead. It is an ongoing effort to make a better product for a better price—you must have modern equipment, a dedicated labor force and capable managers. I feel sorry for GM chairman Robert Stempel. The layoffs he announced last month were not bad things—it was the doing of the last two generations. What is difficult is to change basic philosophies. For instance, work-in-stock should even part of the action as they have something at stake. While the auto industry will improve this year, some of the factories that have closed in Canada will be popping up in Mexico. All of the automakers have operations there now because they must be competitive, and that trend will continue.

**GEORGE WARD,**  
director of Canadian economics for  
consulting firm DRI/McGraw-Hill,  
Toronto

Our view is that we will grow somewhere between 3.5 and four per cent during 1992, compared with an estimated one-per-cent decline in 1991. The question is, where is that growth going to come from? I think a lot of people have overestimated the cumulative effect of the decline in interest rates. Short-term rates are more than 50 percentage points below their 1980 peak. And importantly, five-year mortgage rates are at their lowest levels since 1975. Anyway, we have seen housing contractions, the rising housing market and automobile sales, but we will not see a major blow. The next phase of the recovery has to be driven by exports, and there are our major problem. It's clear that the U.S. economy is in a holding pattern, at best, which means that some of the most pain in the interest-sensitive sectors of our economy is even, there are no gains to give the



Sinclair: 'There's a lot of gloom out there, but there are some bright spots.'

to. What we will need is some help from Uncle Sam to get this part of the recovery moving. So we expect the economy to be trading water, probably until the spring, when we expect the U.S. recovery to kick in.

**FRANK MCFARLANE,**  
president of New Brunswick,  
Fredericton

This will be a watershed year for our province and for Canada. I believe that the constitutional level that is gripping this country will break, and I believe that the economic recovery that has been faltering will obtain solid footing. The slow decline in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar is an economic recovery. All of the governments in Canada are also working hard to contain their spending, which historically has led to get completely out of control during recessionary periods. There is, however, no denying that 1992 will be a crucial year. The aftermath of the recession will bring with it continued high unemployment that the owner will be turned. In New Brunswick, we are working towards identifying new jobs for traditional jobs—ship service-based jobs in advanced technology sectors.

**ROY ROMANOW,**  
premier of Saskatchewan,  
Saskatoon

On the international level, it is very important that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations conclude successfully, so that either the international free-trade war is ended or a truce is called to permit peace for item products to rise to their true market levels. If the negotiations fail, it will be a major blow. In effect, we will have decided that Canada should no longer have an agricultural sector based on the family farm. The result will be more farmers driven off the land over the winter months. But to Saskatchewan

members who are thinking of leaving the province, I say, 'Don't! Bail-up your assets and join in an anti-cooperative effort to find new opportunities that match the economic realities of the 1990s. I hope that we will get our break of good luck soon.'

**HELEN SINCLAIR,**  
president, the Canadian Bankers  
Association,  
Toronto

There's a lot of gloom out there, but there are some bright spots and they are already showing up in declining interest rates and the inflation rate. As well, corporate profits bottomed in the first quarter of 1991 and showed modest growth in the second and third quarters. So, if interest rates stay down, investment will come back. But consumers are not spending right now and, as well, there are some borrowing. There has been some activity in the housing market because banking is sensitive to interest-rate declines. But consumers are still reluctant to borrow for current expenditures.

**LINN MACDONALD,**  
president and chief executive officer,  
Noranda Forest Inc.,  
Toronto

There is no question that 1991 was a more painful year for the forest-products industry than most anyone expected. In 1992, we will have to contend with the ongoing recession and pessimism overruling in many areas, such as newsprint and pulp. I hope that the first quarter will be the bottom of the cycle. But I think that there will still be losses in 1992, although they will be less than last year. I think that you will see many new initiatives arising out of a new determination to improve the product and reduce costs. Perhaps not every mill will survive, but those that do will be a lot more competitive. □



Zsolt: 'This tightening-up was long overdue. But it is not a pleasant one.'



# Making crime pay

A Canadian has computerized the mug shot

**T**he scene is a staple of television police dramas. The hapless crime victim pines over a thick book of mug shots until, finally, he points to a photograph and exclaims, "That's him!" In reality, police officers routinely spend hours manually comparing files of photographs of people who roughly match a suspect's description. But now, a Minneapolis, Minn.-based software company,

sprung, Minneapolis, Connexix president Edward Eacobsen says that neither one of the 140 North American nor the East law-enforcement agencies that have examined the system since it was introduced last April are seriously considering making a purchase. For the Toronto forces, their first task will be to program their existing collection of mug shots into the system, which runs on \$4,500 workstations

so soon as they are arrived, rather than having to wait as long as two weeks for a mug shot to come from police headquarters. Officers in each of the force's 18 divisions will also be able to use the computer at work to compile electronic books of physically similar people, identifying the need to identify any individual case by glancing at that information on identifying suspects. Says Sandra Ross, senior systems analyst for the Metro Toronto police: "We hope that ACSI will become an investigative tool as well as an administrative one."

The mug shots are stored as low-resolution images, which provide about as much clarity and detail as the average television screen. With each picture is a series of black spots in which police can fill in a written description of suspects and the reason for their arrest. For his part, Insp. Alvin Thompson of the York Regional Police said that one of the main reasons for ACSI is its ability to sort mug shots with other files. He added, "Instead of trying to

someone in the lab, developing the photo, we just push a button and have it come up on the color printer." If both forms are equipped with ACSI, the information can be transmitted electronically in seconds over a telephone line.

Roscoe, a computer science graduate, started Connexix alone in 1980. For six years, he was the sole employee, but now the company, which sells a variety of software programs, employs 11 people. Connexix is what is known in the computer industry as a value-added reseller. Resellers have existed almost

as long as the computer industry itself, but they have become increasingly important in recent years as the large computer manufacturers

have decided to concentrate on developing new products rather than on tailoring these products to the widely varying needs of individual buyers.

Eacobsen says that the ACSI program could easily be adapted for other uses, such as real estate sales or talent agencies, where it is important to have both a photo and text in one easily accessible file. But he adds that he decided to focus his efforts first on developing software for law-enforcement agencies because that is the area he understands best. A former crime member of the RCMP in Ottawa, Eacobsen says that his company's employees have a combined total of six years of law-enforcement experience. "When you are presenting a solution," he explains, "you need to understand the problem." Like the rest of society, the law has lost its technological edge.

BARBARA WICKENS

## BUSINESS WATCH



# An economic warning: restructuring or go bust

BY PETER C. MEYERMAN

**I**t isn't that anyone can disclaim a depression, sleeping off its pain. But if there are any economic sectors showing the signs of a depression, it is not the worst economy in recent memory. Canada's gross domestic product in the 12 months of the current decline dropped 2.2 per cent—about half as much as during the 1981-1982 downturn. But there's an important difference. Most of the jobs lost in the last recession were eventually filled again; this time, many are gone for good. (Over 200,000 employment in manufacturing has declined by 44 per cent, or by nearly 500,000 jobs.)

Because there's so little strength in any Canadian industrial category, politicians and economists have been usually urging consumers to kick-start the recovery by spending more money. The shopping malls that turned into killing fields for transacted retailers this Christmas dramatically illustrated that average Canadians are too smart to spend these disingenuous vouchers urging them to spend.

The problem is not a consumption deficit, but an investment deficit. Retail sales on a large enough scale to drastically reduce inventories to that level and then to replace them when consumers begin to spend could offset the future impact. That will not happen: instead there's a sharp reduction in the unemployment rolls—which in turn will require more corporate capital investment.

Exactly the opposite has been happening. When General Motors, the world's largest manufacturing company, announced last year that it planned to lay off 79,500 people in the next four years—that was high enough. But enough, in fact, that it paralyzed the U.S. Federal Reserve Board to shut its discount rate a full point, to 5.5 per cent. But it remains highly dubious whether consumers on the edge of the border will jump on the spending bandwagon.

The news from 1984—the company which pulled itself out of the leading edge of

*Ottawa is looking more and more like Bugs Bunny caught in an onrushing car's lights—not knowing which way to hop*

modern technology was warning to lay off 30,000 employees—was even worse than the General Motors lay-off. There was Big Blue, a corporation with \$76 billion in annual revenues and operating in 157 countries, advertising that its corporate culture, such as the pride of American capitalism, was bankrupt. The insulated corporate loyalty—almost religious—had made of those guys spend their lives in blue suits and white shirts. And the ironic question wasn't going to pay off after all.

The devastating layoffs in North America are not unique. There is no good news anywhere. Even the world's two strongest economies are suffering. Battered by its huge inflation bills, Germany's 1983 growth rate is expected to be only 1.6 per cent—half as fast as very impressive 1981. Japan's economy is currently contracting, and in 1982 growth will also come to below two per cent.

Worst of all, the free world's economies are just going to what might be termed the replication that formerly made up the Soviet Union. At the moment, the collection of countries that was once among the world's most powerful economies is bankrupt and has suspended present plans on its foreign debt. Russia President Brezhnev's determination to have the

world's wealthiest nations to look against the dollar as a base and probably necessary step. But it will cost a horrendous loss of dollars, with food prices predicted to leap up to 15 times current values.

Since more than half of the 150 million people in Russia alone already live at the poverty line, anything could happen—including the possibility of power by disgruntled army generals and the end of the Soviet Union. The only alternative might be to use the Montreal Plan to donate food and other assistance, to that large-scale war—real war—is prevented. (It was the Montreal Plan that gave the Western countries the kick start they needed after the Second World War, when it was widely predicted that the longest end of the post-war economic recovery would cause another depression.)

In the face of the current evidence of devastating economic news, Ottawa is looking more and more like Bugs Bunny caught in the headlights of an onrushing car, not knowing which way to hop. Ever since Finance Minister Don Mazankowski officially declared the end of the recession on Sept. 4, there have been no new initiatives from the department of finance. Wasting efforts to save, trying to hold the line on the tax system, and keeping cabinet members down continue to be the government's preoccupations. These are worthy goals, but these policies would have worked only if the recession had ended, as was forecast, in the last quarter of 1981.

It didn't. And even these actions are not working. Taxes cannot be raised any higher, most Canadians now pay 45.5 per cent of their incomes in various government taxes and these in higher brackets are assessed even more. The tax rate on those Canadians annually receive some in government benefits, they pay out in taxes. It is that hardest of political truths—university, the transfer of government payments to individuals, whether they need the money or not—their future mobility will have to wait, and soon.

Issue involves are at hand. The government's current strategy is to—on the one hand, to the 1981 Macdonald yield commission an economic program is still writing to be implemented. It would ensure every Canadian an adequate income and not waste public money on things who don't need it. The program would be a jobless guarantee. The \$117 billion in their savings to be used as loan down payments, helping the sagging housing industry. Another possibility is a combination of investment tax credits on the purchase of capital equipment. At the same time, say, we will have to be located in modern, new-line public infrastructure, including highways, schools, hospitals and what's left of our railways.

Most important of all, the Canadian economy desperately needs to be restructured. Harvard University professor Michael Porter's recent study, *Compete at the Crossroads*, was commissioned by the federal government to examine our lack of competitiveness. Maybe it did. But if we don't soon start to modernize our way of doing business and become globally competitive, we'll go bust.



Eacobsen program could be adapted for real estate sales or talent agencies

Connexix Computer Systems Inc. has developed a specialized program that will make it easier and easier for police to store and retrieve mug shots and written descriptions of offenders of individuals. Using a keyboard, an officer simply types into a display terminal all of the available information about a suspect's appearance. The computer then searches its data base to select the individuals who most closely match that description, displaying their photographs on a video screen. Connexix's high-tech approach to a routine task appears to have paid off—over of Canada's largest police forces have already agreed to purchase the system, which can store up to 500,000 mug shots and accompanying text.

Representatives of the two forces, the Metropolitan Toronto Police and the nearby York Regional Police, will be the first to use the system when it becomes fully operational in the

supplied by Bethesda City, Calif.-based NeXT Computer Inc. and runs a Pentium-class printer.

The program, formally known as the Repository for Integrated Computer Imaging, Identification of Mug Shots (RIMS), is designed to be used by police officers who have had little or no computer experience. Officers who use the system will be able to record a suspect's image with a video camera that is connected to the workstation. As a result, officers can check the quality of the picture immediately instead of waiting for a photograph to be developed from Eacobsen, Inc. "That object only put the officers to rest," Eacobsen's big deal.

The Toronto force plans to install 24 interconnected workstations throughout the metropolitan area, at a total cost of about \$100,000. That way, investigating officers in the field will have direct access to photographs of suspects

# MEDICARE TO THE RESCUE



**AMERICANS ARE  
LOOKING NORTH  
FOR SOLUTIONS TO  
THEIR HEALTH-  
CARE PROBLEMS**

On most Sunday mornings, Raymond Ross plays basketball with a group of friends at a park near his home in Tampa, Fla. Last Aug. 26, Ross, a salesman for a firm that manufactures watchbands, got his left hand split by a gun and suffered a broken thumb when the ball struck his hand. At St. Joseph's Hospital, doctors told Ross that one steel pin would have to be inserted to repair the break. A few days later, Ross, 43, underwent a two-hour operation. He did not spend a night in the hospital and was pinched with his thumb—until the left armrest, including hospital charges and physician fees, it came to about \$11,040. Said Ross: "I thought they had mixed me up with a heart transplant patient." The insurance company that covers Ross through his firm's medical plan also said that the charges were excessive, and paid only \$7,572, leaving the patient to pay the balance. Still, Ross was lucky to have medical insurance. With medical costs rising steeply, most American families with coverage now pay, on average, nearly \$5,000 a year for health insurance, while millions of Americans have no health insurance at all. Because of that, political pressure is mounting in the United States for Washington to adopt a health-care system like Canada's.

A national debate about the United States' patchwork of private and state-sponsored medical insurance plans—and the pros and cons of the Canadian system—has been growing in volume during the past five years. In private circles, the issue has taken a new level of urgency as rapidly climbing medical costs and soaring insurance premiums leave more and more Americans unable to afford the health insurance policies sold by private firms. And for almost 75 per cent of all Americans, that is the only form of insurance available. With a presidential election looming next November, President George Bush announced on Dec. 6 that he would outline plans for a new health-



care system during his Jan. 28 state of the union message.

For their part, the Democrats are promoting health care as the dominant election-year issue. Speaking at a meeting on health care in Washington, Sen. Dan Rostenkowski, a Michigan Democrat, cited the case of an unemployed Michigan woman with a low-paying job who could afford only limited health insurance for herself—and none for her six-year-old son. Added Rostenkowski: "Now, if this little fellow lived in Canada, he'd have it. This motherfucker is that he lives here in America. And this country, finally, doesn't care enough about him."

**Exaggerate.** Indeed, Americans who want Washington to lead the way in establishing a national health-care program point to the fact that all Canadians are entitled to comprehensive, publicly funded medical care. (Only two provinces—British Columbia and Alberta—require residents to pay a modest, monthly health-care premium.) By contrast, even those Americans who can afford private insurance may incur heavy additional expenses when they get seriously ill (page 37). In the United States, only the elderly, the disabled and the

very poor are covered under publicly operated health-care programs. Canada's nationwide, government-backed system is being unveiled in the American debate at a time when red-hot inflation has led to growing worries about the closing of hospital beds across the country (page 36). While Americans who want a national health-care system paid to Canada as an example, opponents of state-operated health care claim that the problems in Canada's system show why the United States should not set up a similar system. In a Dec. 5 news conference in Washington, Health Secretary Louis W. Sullivan contended that "the vast majority of Americans receive the finest health care from a pluralistic system that gives them access to and chooses among the best doctors, hospitals and technology." Sullivan contended that the U.S. system had disadvantages, but added that he was convinced that "the hidden costs, such as waiting lists or reduced quality, that would result from a Canada-style centralized system are much higher."

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crises in both"—U.S. and Canadian health-care systems are not hidden at all. They are the constantly rising costs of health care itself, pushed along by factors that include the high price tags attached to modern medical technology, ever more sophisticated surgical procedures and the expense of treating a growing, and increasingly older, population. Americans and Canadians devote more of their national wealth to medical care than any other countries in the world, with the United States spending 13 per cent of its gross domestic product—\$770 billion in 1991—on medical services and Canada spending nearly 9 per cent of its GNP, or \$60 billion, in 1990.

Those vast sums of money pay for first-class medical treatment in both countries. But in Canada, where the cost of medical care has risen by 20 per cent during the past three years alone, deficit-addicted governments no longer can afford to pay the increased cost and have been forced to search for ways to run the system more cheaply. In the United States, where medical costs have risen faster than the

rate of inflation during 34 of the past 35 years, the gap between those Americans who can afford broadly based medical insurance and those who cannot is steadily widening.

As a result, as a population of about 253 million people, about 196 million Americans are covered solely by privately operated medical insurance plans. For the most part, such insurance is made available as a fringe benefit by firms that pay part of the monthly premium, while the employee pays the rest. Employees are not obliged to provide such benefits except in one state—Rhode Island (page 35). Elsewhere, a firm's monthly premium that ranges from \$960 for family coverage in Iowa to \$254 for the same coverage in Massachusetts, offsets American medical treatment that is broadly comparable to, or better than, that received by Canadians. As well, about 25 million elderly and disabled Americans receive coverage under the federally financed Medicare program. Under that program, which cost taxpayers about \$320 billion in 1991, those benefiting pay a monthly premium of \$36.57





# FACING RADICAL SURGERY

## BUDGET CUTS THREATEN CANADIAN MEDICARE

For most of 1990, Sandra Olin of Rochester Hill, Ont., was bedridden with severe back pain. The 35-year-old mother of two said that doctors diagnosed her as suffering from a narrowing of the spinal column, full-back syndrome (a condition in which the lower spine begins to curve outward as a result of pressure surgery) and several related problems. Olin said that the scheduled five back operations, three of whom referred her to Dr. Edward Scimone, a former Toronto surgeon who now practices in Buffalo, N.Y. She said that she and her husband had spent \$20,000 in out-of-pocket expenses, but several related problems. Olin said that the scheduled five back operations, three of whom referred her to Dr. Edward Scimone, a former Toronto surgeon who now practices in Buffalo, N.Y. She said that she and her husband had spent \$20,000 in out-of-pocket expenses, but several related problems. Olin said that the scheduled five back operations, three of whom referred her to Dr. Edward Scimone, a former Toronto surgeon who now practices in Buffalo, N.Y. She said that she and her husband had spent \$20,000 in out-of-pocket expenses, but several related problems.

According to Olin, she had no choice but to seek treatment in the United States because she could not find a Canadian surgeon to perform the necessary five. She said that the operation cost about \$40,000 and she has asked the Ontario Health Insurance Plan to cover her expenses. Meanwhile, across Canada, a growing number of patients are finding that the medical treatment available to them is limited by a variety of factors, including hospital bed closures, long waiting lists for surgery and shortages of expensive new medical equipment. And most health-care professionals say that the underlying cause of the problem is the dwindling supply of funds for health care.

The budget crisis facing Canada's \$60-billion-a-year health-care system is causing a growing concern for increasingly costly medical services is growing as the result of population growth and the rising average age of Canadians. Forced to operate with less money, hospitals across the country have been forced to close beds, reduce services and make staff cuts. Typically, Newfoundlander who require hip replacements routinely wait 15 to 24 months for an operation. The waiting time for cardiac surgery at Halifax's Victoria General Hospital is six months.

At times, the growing pressure on hospitals to function with less money has resulted in serious—and sometimes fatal—mistakes. David Robinson, a 27-year-old mother of three who lives in the Montreal suburb of St-Hippolyte, said that she was three months pregnant when she woke one morning only to find herself and her unborn child dead.

During a night vaginal bleeding. Told by a doctor in a local clinic that she was about to miscarry, Robinson went to Montreal's St-Hippolyte hospital, where she waited for two hours for medical attention. Finally, at seven p.m., she went to a midwife at the hospital where, alone and unattended, she suffered a miscarriage. Said Robinson: "It is a measureable fact that a woman should have been treated the way I was, like a dog."

**SPENDING:** The financial pressures that are squeezing Canada's medical-care system have been growing since the mid-1980s, when Ottawa, preoccupied with budget deficits and a national debt that now is approaching \$600

billion, began limiting the growth of transfer funds to the provinces. Some provincial politicians and health-care professionals say that by the year 2000, reductions in federal funding will leave Ottawa powerless to enforce national health-care standards. Despite that, federal Health Minister Branch Bouchard wants the Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservative government to be committed to maintaining a universally available, publicly administered system. Said Bouchard: "The existence of our health system is one of the institutions which makes the greatest contribution to Canada's distinctiveness."

Despite the pressures on Canada's medical system, many health-care professionals say that they are managing to adapt to the new era of financial restraint. Two years ago, widespread reports of nursing shortages and heart patients dying while waiting surgery seemed grave threats among many Canadians about the state of their health-care system. Hospital administrators have responded to tighter budgets by reducing the lengths of stay for a variety of medical procedures. Last year, the 11 Ontario hospitals that participate in a network established a Cardiac Care Network to increase the number of patients for operations from 10,000 to 15,000. Said John King, vice-president of Calgary's 1,000-bed Foothills Provincial General Hospital: "Competition between hospitals has gone. Now, we co-operate."

Although Ottawa's total payments to the provinces have continued to grow, they are increasing at a slower rate than in the past. And the portion of federal funds used to finance health care is actually declining. In 1984-1985, Ottawa contributed \$6.5 billion in cash to provincial health-care systems. But in the fiscal year that ends on March 31, 1990, Ottawa will have given the provinces only \$6.1 billion, a decline of 12 per cent. As a result, the provinces are being forced to pay a greater portion of health-care costs through direct taxation of their own populations. Some experts warn that under existing funding formulas, federal cash transfers for health care may disappear altogether by the turn of the century.

As well, some politicians and health-care experts contend that if Ottawa continues to reduce cash transfers, which are aimed at ensuring a similar level of social services in all provinces—rich or poor—the federal government will lose the power it currently has to enforce the five basic principles of medicine established by Parliament in 1965: universality, accessibility, portability, comprehensiveness and public administration. Said Douglas Gocher, director of communications for the Ontario-based Canadian Medical Association, which represents Canada's 44,000 doctors: "We are going to end up with 10 bifurcated health-care systems."

**ADAPT:** To cope with the financial shortfall, new provinces (the exception is Manitoba) during the past few years have imposed cuts on the doctor's incomes and all the provinces have stopped paying operating deficits that hospitals incur. The government measures have angered many doctors, causing some to threaten their practices and move to the United

States. In November, Jay Byrnes, a dermatologist in Sudbury, Ont., closed his clinic, which employed 14 people and treated up to 10,000 patients a year. Doucette said that he could no longer cover his basic operating expenses after the Ontario government imposed an annual limit of \$10,000 on doctors' gross earnings, effective last April. Said Doucette: "The situation is so dire, it's a hard to believe it's even this far." He added that he may be able to reopen his practice this month.

Financial pressures also are forcing cutbacks at hospitals which consume between 48 and 50 per cent of provincial health-care costs. King said that Calgary's Foothills Hospital has had to replace some registered nurses with lower-paid nursing assistants. He added that hospitals in urban centers now work together to central-

ize costly and complex procedures to avoid duplication of services.

In New Brunswick, the ministry of health and community services has closed 150 hospital beds in the past two years, and plans to close an additional 300 beds by 1995. The closure amount to a 20-per-cent reduction from the province's estimated total of 3,700 beds. In some cases, the closing of hospital beds has been accompanied by staff cuts. At St. Martin's Hospital in Antigonish, N.S., 11 nurses were laid off after hospital officials closed 20 of the institution's 175 beds in July 1991. Now, says Sherrine Long, a nurse at the hospital, nurses "are working full-time without breaks and through lunch without claiming overtime because they know that the hospital is trying to balance its budget and they fear more layoffs."

**STRUGGLE:** Some provinces are struggling to reduce their health-care costs by making the public more cost-conscious and by making health-care professionals more efficient. Quebec has undertaken as the most radical reform. Provincial Health Minister Mario-Pierre Charbonnet August proposed the introduction of a \$5 user fee to discourage unnecessary visits to overcrowded hospital emergency wards. For his part, Bouchard has declared that such fees would violate the Canada Health Act, which gives Ottawa the power to withhold transfer payments to provinces that breach the act. Despite that, Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa's government has shown no signs of abandoning the proposed legislation. "Quebec is on the cutting edge of the debate," said Russell Williams, CMA's secretary in the National Assembly. "Most of the country will have to address this question over the next 10 years."

With Canada's health-care system facing a bewildering variety of pressures, most of them financial, doctors, nurses and hospital administrators say that they are looking for more specific guidance from their political masters. Said Dennis Timblin, president of the Ontario Hospital Association: "Medicine is not what it has been for the last 20 years. We need new health-care programs. Governments have to establish health-care, such as beds per thousand population and days of patient care per thousand population." Timblin added that governments are merely setting budgets without setting any policy on the level or quality of health care that hospitals should be providing.

For some of the politicians charged with setting a new course for the country's health-care system, there is at least a sense of optimism about the future. Said B.C. Health Minister Elizabeth Cull: "The system has to change if we are to maintain the principles of medicine that Canadians feel so strongly about. I don't think the health-care system is in a crisis, but if we don't change, it may end up as one." Indeed, with their health-care systems facing an unprecedented crisis, Canadian citizens may only hope that their political leaders will turn sincerely into opportunity.



Cost (left) Bouchard cost increases are forcing hospitals to close beds and reduce staff and services



BY ARNOLD JENSEN AND JOHN McMAHON in Montreal. RAYMOND CARRIE in Montreal and JOHN McMAHON in Calgary

# Midnight in Moscow

The Soviet Union ceased to exist on Jan. 1. But it ended not with a bang or a whimper. Instead, the Kremlin halls resounded with classical music as Canadian guitarist **Leona Boyd** performed for 700 star guests on New Year's Eve. With the country in distress, Boyd, 41, says that she was not sure what to expect in the former



Boyd: a special new year

Soviet capital. As a result, she went to the trouble of packing her own supply of food. But despite shortages, Moscow's mayor, Gavril Popov, greeted his guests with an impressive feast. Said Boyd, who plans to marry American businessman **John Senow** next month: "I have played in a lot of places around the world and for some important audiences. But to play in the Kremlin on the last day of the Soviet Union was special."

## Bats in the front row

For the past six years, Rod Beattie has toured the country with his one-man stage show, *The Wingfield Trilogy*. Last week, he began a five-week run in Toronto. But the 676-seat **Elmora Appel Theatre** is a far cry from some of

the makeshift stages where Beattie performed play-right **Dan Needler's** story about a stockbroker who abandons the city for the joys of farm life. Beattie, 43, has faced audiences in high-school cafeterias and dusty town halls across the country. But his most unusual location

Beattie: pig barn



## Harry goes hunting

For Christmas, Prince Charles took his seven-year-old son, **Harry**, on his first royal hunt, at **Woburn Hall**, 180 km north of London. But the occasion provoked levels of protests from animal rights activists. Although the hounds killed two hares, hunt master **Roger Bredbury** noted that young Harry and his companion, Princess Anne's daughter, **Zara**, 16, did not witness the spectacle. Said Bredbury: "We're not in the business of letting children see animals being ripped apart."

Prince Charles: hounds of protest

## COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD

After a six-year absence, actress **Emma Samms** returns to the daytime soap **General Hospital** on Jan. 17. But producers are keeping quiet about how they plan to revive her popular role as **Holly Scarpia**, who supposedly died in a fiery plane crash when Samms left the taped show in 1985 to join the cast of the now-defunct *Dynasty*. Even Samms is being shy about her resurrection—although she notes that Holly's body was never actually found. Declared Samms, 36: "They always seem to have a way around these things."

## Brushstrokes

Last year, **Cler Corp** of Princeton, Ont., trumped over 700 other girls to pose as **Anne of Green Gables** for a series of six paintings by **Burlington, Ont.** artist **Karl Barendt**. Said Corp., 12: "I never thought I'd be." But Barendt said that Corp. is "the storybook image of Anne." The six paintings, which will be sold worldwide as reproductions, will capture pivotal moments in Anne's life from age 13 to 86. Said Barendt, 56: "I'd like to think that if **Lacy Muehl** from *Montgomery* were alive today, she'd say, 'This is what I was staying when I made the book.'"



Corp (left), Barendt's 'storybook'



was a converted pig barn in rural Quebec. According to Beattie, it was 1989, when the movie *Barfman*, starring **Jack Nicholson** and **Michael Keaton**, was a huge box-office hit. In the middle of his show, a bat began swooping around Beattie's head. Recalled Beattie: "I just admitted, 'It must be looking for **Jack Nicholson**.'"



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## HEALTH

# Swift invaders

*A deadly meningococcal disease raises alarm*



Patients at Edmonton's Royal Alexandra Hospital. Fear of an isolated disease.

When 15-year-old Jennifer Anches complained of a headache and stiff neck two days before Christmas, her mother sent the girl to bed for a few hours. When the pain grew worse, Yvonne O'Brien took her daughter to their family doctor in Amherst, Alta., about 30 km north of Calgary. The doctor immediately sent Jennifer to Calgary's Peter Lougheed Centre. After hospital tests, doctors gave the girl two risk tablets to bring down her fever and sent her home. "They said nothing was wrong," recalls O'Brien. But at 4 a.m. the next day, Jennifer was vomiting and complaining of a nagging sensation in her legs. After the girl collapsed, O'Brien dialed 911 for an ambulance. A short time later, a doctor at Bow Valley Centre pronounced the girl dead on arrival. Two days later, medical experts said that she died from a serious form of meningococcal disease, which starts in the throat with flu-like symptoms but which can attack the membranes surrounding the brain with lethal swiftness. "The doctors should have given her something when they saw the symptoms," said O'Brien. "If you wait for proof, it might be too late." Faced with recent clusters of meningococcal disease in widely separated parts of the country, medical authorities said that they shared O'Brien's concern.

Of the estimated 400 meningococcal disease cases reported to Health and Welfare Canada each year, most are isolated and curable cases that result from a number of different types of meningococcal bacteria. But during the past two months, one specific strain of bacteria has

caused clusters of cases in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, resulting in eight deaths. Medical experts said that the current cases seemed to be more uncharacteristic—and more serious—than usual. Acknowledged Dr. Paul Gally, an epidemiologist with the federal Laboratory Centre for Disease Control in Ottawa. "We don't know why the disease is behaving this way."

Anches said that in most cases, the bacteria responsible for the current clusters, known as Group C meningococcal meningitis, is spread by direct contact with a carrier's nasal and throat secretions. If the bacteria invade the membranes or spaces that surround the brain, they can lead to meningococcal disease, which can cause fever, intense headaches, nausea, a stiff neck, a rash and hallucinations. If the illness is not treated quickly with antibiotics, the inflammation of the membranes can cause deafness, permanent nerve damage or death.

Despite widespread alarm over the recent fatalities of the disease, health officials around the country have been vaccinated against the bacteria in areas where the disease was reported. "It's for those who know the handful of victims killed by the rare disease, the precautions brought little comfort. 'There was shock and some fear,'" said Ernest Zappa, principal of Ottawa's Holmwood High School, where two students died last month of meningococcal disease. "Everything just happened so fast."

DIANE BRADY



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## A deal that saved the Lightning

BY TRENT FRAYNE

**P**hil Esposito is one of those guys who will take only "yes" for an answer. With Phil, "no" doesn't do it. It didn't do it in 1972 when Team Canada was shooing him from the Soviets, and it didn't do it last year when the situation grew thick enough that the Tampa Bay Lightning looked like they were on the decline before payment of the elusive National Hockey League expansion fee. The Tampa Bay Lightning and the Ottawa Senators are the two newest general franchises in the NHL. Phil closed the Lightning one night last winter watching an electrical storm from the window of a Tampa restaurant. What he saw was—*that's it!*

Phil is one of the NHL's all-time great accounts, an extroverted, light-brown-looking fellow who in some miraculous fashion persuaded Japanese and American businessmen to cough up \$57.5 million to put an NHL expansion team into Florida. In 1972, as every hockey fan will remember, the situation with Team Canada became so desperate that Terry Phil left compelled to lecture the entire country via television from Vancouver. And just last summer, the situation once again became so desperate that Phil felt compelled to approach George Steinbrenner, of all people, about helping to save Tampa Bay's hockey entry.

Steinbrenner, of course, is the defrocked former New York Yankee boss who a year and a half ago was booted from the diamond-making television deal because of the game's commissioner, Fay Vincent, for paying \$45,000 to an unnamed group. George hired him to spy on Dave Whitford, then a Yankee outfielder with whom Steinbrenner was feuding.

But now all of a sudden an ex-baseballer hockey player is to make his debut in Florida next season, although it does seem peculiar that the game's biggest, ugliest shoo-in to Steinbrenner, a man disposed by baseball and out of a federal office several years ago when he pleaded guilty to charges that he conspired to make illegal contributions to Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential campaign.

*Phil Esposito is one of those guys who will take only 'yes' for an answer. In Tampa, 'no' doesn't do it.*

Hockey people with far more influence than Esposito remember Steinbrenner, a Tampa resident, who says that he bought between seven and 18 per cent of the Lightning last summer. Last month, he said that the people who had sought his help were not, paradoxically, John Dwyer, William Wirtz, the powerful owner of the Chicago Blackhawks, Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles and Tampa Mayor Sandra Freedman.

But Phil was among the first to pursue George, and he told me the other afternoon that he did it because the Lightning was \$2.9 million light on payment of the final \$35.6 million of an \$37.5-million expansion fee.

When I caught up with him, Phil was the star attraction of one of those so-called sports collectible shows at which collectors buy and sell vast numbers of picture cards of sports stars. Others stood in long, patient lines for autographs of their heroes. For two hours and 45 minutes, this nation's Brian De Palma, Clint Eastwood and Clint Eastwood came out, posed for photographs and in books brought by this late of fans who paid \$4 each to get into a massive Toronto hotel showroom and an additional \$5 for a pack autographed by Phil, \$5 for his name on a cap or in a book or magazine brought by the fan.

Before dealing across the road to the support for the ride back in Tampa, Phil said that he had turned to the bombastic Steinbrenner for money because he knew George was backed with it and because he needed local representation in the Lightning project.

"So now let's a general partner, settle it," Phil said of George. "He won't throw his weight around, he's a baseball guy. He'll be back at that game—you'll see. I think he took this on because he figures another major sport is good for the area."

Phil himself was the picture of a tycoon even before his expansion kick out a title. Phil has 100 winning records for the Bruins and the Rangers at 220 in, and he appears to have added 10 or so. Naturally, being a resident of Tampa and a wealthy fellow to begin with, he was trained to the fingertips. His complexion was enhanced by a gleaming white shirt and he wore glasses tinted a light brown. His hair was combed straight back and beginning to grey, befitting a man who turns 50 next month. Phil still has the blunt, direct way of talking that fans will remember who were getting at their 70s that September night of 1972 in Vancouver when the Soviets beat the overwhelmingly favored Canadians. He blazed critical fans as an accusation that Ken Dryden, the goaltender, cried in *Fire-off at the Summit*, his 1973 book on that historic series.

"We're trying our best and giving it our all and I wish the hell you people would realize that," Esposito is quoted as saying. "These Russians are great hockey players. Why not give them credit and stop blaming us?" From then on, people realized the Canadian team was in touch.

Phil has been involved in the Tampa project since its inception two years ago although there were times when it appeared that he—and it—might disappear into Tampa Bay. When his first group of investors, the Prisher family of the Hightstown club, backed out a year ago, Phil went to Japan and landed a deal that opened up golf courses there. When his support grew shaky last summer, he sought out Steinbrenner.

The letter, nicknamed the *Blow* by New York writers in the Yankee days because of his high-handedness, was bitterly critical of Esposito according to a recent piece in *The New York Times*, and last month Phil was stripped of his rank of general partner. He is now president of the hockey operation, not of the partnership, which means that he will build the hockey club and be responsible for its performance.

At the start, in effect upon the immortal words of Babe Ruth, a former star of the Toronto Maple Leafs, taking on the Tampa Bay Lightning "is like busting your ass to get on the Titanic." Still, Phil has the tank with equipment, his droopy-eyed knee is cleared as a career gift.

"You know as well as I do that we're not gonna come out of the gate winning," said Phil. "But I just want us to be competitive for at least as it takes to make a few decent trades and don't come good late who'll develop." It's a positive approach in what it takes, there is no problem. Every Phil is a very affirmative guy.

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## A woman of record

*Marjorie Nichols loses her first fight*

**S**he never told her students, but Mary-Ann Nichols loved war. A hard-leftist, anti-Oriana newspaper columnist who, at 40, was regarded by both peers and politicians on Parliament Hill as a maverick politician, Nichols spent the last four years of her life fighting cancer—a battle that she lost on Dec. 29 while visiting her family in Red Deer, Alta. A severely deteriorated woman as frail and as joyful as she refused throughout her illness to make a headline at *The Ottawa Citizen*, where her popular, often acerbic political column appeared three times a week. In the midst of one relapse, Nichols passed a 40th anniversary out from her hospital room to a corner of the city's oldest pub.



### *Alcoholics a search continuum*

her cyp. Described last week by *Prise Miroir* editor Brian Mulroney as a "treacher for waste" in journalism, Nichols was adamant that her work should not be affected by her personal tragedy. As she told a fellow journalist, "I want to be known as a columnist, not as a person with cancer."



Michelle, a reformed heavy smoker, fought a courageous battle after three tumors on her lung were diagnosed as cancerous in February, 1985. After doctors gave her only six weeks to live, she volunteered to undergo experimental chemotherapy. **TIME** was the first to follow her battle and reported her story. Michelle, 42, said, "That's the best of my life."

Nichols's will to live was matched by an unflagging dedication to his craft. Back to Back, Deich graduated a journalism from the University of Mexico and began his career in 1908 at the now-defunct *Ortodoxo Juvenil* in the first issue. The *Harvardian* took him in 1912 as the first female member of the press gallery covering the first Colombian legislature. Three years later, sent by the Sen to cover federal politics as a columnist, Nichols became the first woman to visit the post of Orizaba, then besieged by a major Canadian newspaper. Sent longshore to Britain and New Zealand, he covered the 1920 election. Margaret was the Rosa Barreto and Bill Dietz—sons of the toughest colonists and writers of *Ortodoxo*."

Politically oppressed, Nichols often identified her political targets with well-known liberals. Half-sarcastically, Nichols once told an editor who criticized the one-sidedness of a column that "objectivity is a poor relation to the truth." Former B.C. premier David Barrett, now a federal MP, was so outraged in 1984 by a series of attacks on him by Nichols in *The Vancouver Sun* that he publicly harried the columnist at key in the corridor of the legislature. Still, Nichols counted notable victories among her closest friends, including Barrett and former Liberal leader John Turner. For many politicians, colleagues and readers, Ottawa became a colder, creepier place with her death.

### 3. STATE POLYMERIZATION

## Labors of love

*Susan Wright was a power on and off stage*

[illegible]

theatre who didn't know her. She had such strength, so much life in her. What shocked people was that there was anything out there capable of killing her."

Born in Culinary and raised in Saskatoon, Wright was one of four children born to John and Ruth Wright, who ran a small electronics-supplies firm. Her two sisters and a brother are all actors—antennae Janet and Anne shared the stage with Wright in last year's acclaimed Stratford production of Michael Tremblay's *Les Refusés* now, Wright briefly studied drama at the University of Saskatchewan, but never received any formal acting training. In fact, she snagged a bluegrass band in Saskatoon first, before starting her stage career. Over the years, as she matured as an actor and took on



Brighter, sustainable energy

across the country, critics praised her intelligence, range and sharp comedic timing.

Wright, who was divorced, had recently completed a run of *Shirley Valentine* at London's Gielgud Theatre, and was scheduled to create the one-woman show at Stratford in 1985, where she was to return for her eighth season. Invited to join the Stratford company in 1961, she performed many memorable roles, ranging from *Portia* in a 1963 production of



Jane Fonda is a renowned actress and activist. She is shown in a black and white photograph, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a dark, patterned top. The background is dark and out of focus.

in a letter that was read aloud at a memorial service Wright last week in Stamford, attended by 1,200 people. Phillips wrote that "Susan's early loss makes her talent permanently inaccessible." In her professional and personal life, Wright's labors of love were cut but

DIANE TETMAN

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McDonnell DeVito: Kiefer: marital cracks, racial divisions and social ills

## FILMS

# City of catastrophe

Grace and chaos vie for power in Los Angeles

GRAND CANYON  
Directed by Lawrence Kasdan

**I**n 1983, writer-director Lawrence Kasdan created a generational landmark with *The Big Chill*, a movie about a reunion of friends from the Sixties groping to understand themselves in the sober light of the 1980s. In a similar vein, Kasdan's new movie, *Grand Canyon*, reverses status of interlocking lives to create a composite portrait of the American middle class in the early Nineties. But it has grander ambitions than *The Big Chill*: Its setting (and subject) is Los Angeles, which Kasdan portrays as a crucible of U.S. contradictions—a capital of slow-burned ambition and Third World squalor, of New Age optimism and plagued suburbs. The lives of six characters overlap as they are threatened by the chaos, cruelty and reckless violence of the city. The movie is dense with social commentary. And considering how much ground it tries to cover, *Grand Canyon* has surprising depth. Although it skirts the edge of glossiness, it is well acted and elegantly directed—a drama as sharp but harmony that burns with intelligence, tenderness and wit.

*Grand Canyon's* deep-chain narrative unfolds as a series of coincidences. On his way home from a Lakers basketball game one night, an out-of-control lawyer named Mack (Kevin Spacey) takes a shortcut to escape freeway gridlock—and ends up stranded with engine trouble in a dangerous part of town. After a gang of black youths surrounds his car, he is rescued by a black tow-truck driver named Simon (Dwight Glover). Astonishingly, Mack tries to return the

favor. He offers to help Simon relocate his wife's family to a safer neighborhood. And he sets up a blind date for Simon with the first black woman he meets, Jess (Nelle Varon). Meanwhile, Mack's wife, Clare (Mary McCormack), discovers an abandoned baby when she is jogging. Her desire to adopt the child, and her husband's reticence, opens up cracks in their marriage. With their teenage son on the verge of independence, Clare's maternal instincts are revived, while Mack is distracted by his young secretary, Dee (Mary-Louise Parker). Dee, in turn, re-evaluates her life after being shaken up by an act of vandalism. And Mack's best friend, Denis (Steve Martin), a producer of violent movies, is evicted from his loft after being crippled by a sniper's bullet.

In the mean streets of Kasdan's Los Angeles, it never rains—it pours. Catastrophes great and small coincide with uncanny timing. In one especially crowded sequence of just a few minutes, Mack rubs his finger while driving home during a fatal argument, runs from an earthquake and gives mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a heart-attack victim next door.

But *Grand Canyon* about the convergence of miracles out of chaos. And its contents are artfully choreographed. A few cut scenes the most remarkable circumstances virtually crumble. Kline, working with Kasdan for the fourth time, delivers his most natural performance to date. Glover projects irremediable warmth. And Parker achieves an affecting balance of vulnerability and strength.

Kasdan, who wrote the script, with his wife, Meg, directs with confident grace. He links the story's fragments with haunting shots of a

police helicopter swooping like a dark angel over L.A.'s invisible war zones. At one point, the camera cuts from a harrowing drive-by shooting to a glimpse of a helicopter rising over the city lights—and then to a profile of Dee's long blond braids propped up on her balcony above the smog-filled air of the night.

The movie's liberal angst is highly available. Kasdan recognizes the living hell of the city at the risk of trivializing it. And although *Grand Canyon* attempts to span all social strata, its viewpoint is anchored in Mack's white liberal pain. But the well-known script ably compensates for its narrow focus in beautiful detail. When Davis says, "There's too much rage going on, we're lucky to have the movies to vent it," Mack replies, "That line is so tired." Then, Davis, in his superegoous wisdom, adds, "You haven't seen enough movies. All of life's troubles are answered in the movies."

Kasdan does not pretend to answer life's riddles in *Grand Canyon*. The movie provides a suggestion of redemption, but no more. Its solutions are incomplete, and its characters remain fallible. The movie's title, meanwhile, works as a metaphorical metaphor, as versatile as a Swiss army knife. On one level, the *Grand Canyon* represents a natural wonder that puts human problems in perspective. Seeing on the edge of it, says Simon, made him realize that "our life means nothing in these rocks." The title also refers to the rift in American society and the erosion of civilized order—what Davis describes as "a big hole in the country." With *Grand Canyon*, Kasdan has peered over the edge and come up with a compelling view.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

## Maclean's

### BEST-SELLER LIST

#### FICTION

- 1 *Warrior & Walking Spins, Dancer (1)*
- 2 *Middleman's Tip, Almond (2)*
- 3 *Orion and Solara, Jackson (3)*
- 4 *Soulmate, Fisher (3)*
- 5 *Heavenly Dream, King*
- 6 *MUI & Snake, Brennan, Archer (4)*
- 7 *The Kitchen Devil's Wife, The (7)*
- 8 *Red Smoke, Kowale (6)*
- 9 *The Gates of Hell, Dwyer (6)*
- 10 *Prayer of a Very Wise Child, Connor (5)*

#### NONFICTION

- 1 *The Betrayal of Canada, Irving (4)*
- 2 *Mr. Justice of the Peace, Arfman (1)*
- 3 *Marchant Persons, Newman (7)*
- 4 *Days of Trouble, Stewart (2)*
- 5 *Wild Swans, Chang*
- 6 *Pyrenean Report, Pyrene*
- 7 *More from a Rose, Kowale*
- 8 *Traps for Power, Mayh (3)*
- 9 *Overkill, Seldin (6)*
- 10 *Buckley, Fitch*

(1) Figures last week  
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## Too much thumb-twiddling time

BY STEWART MacLEOD

While most Canadians were joyfully watching all those year-end reviews of 1995—you know, *Guns*, *Gull*, *War*, *recession*, *holographic*, *am-*  
employment, cross-border shopping, *constitutional crisis*, etc.—our particular study group was brooding over that letter written by three Quebec Tory MPs.

You know, of course, the letter in question, the one in which Charles DeFleur, Suzanne Dupont and Gilles Bernier asked that Eric Lindros be kicked off Team Canada because of his refusal to play for the Quebec Nordiques of the National Hockey League. They didn't get their wish, but nonetheless the upshot was could be quite staggering. Let's appear not to be thinking about this? Worth another rapid consultation, at the very least.

You see, it's the contention of the three MPs that athletes going abroad should be proud to represent all of Canada, not just parts of it. And, says the letter, "the gentleman here is that Mr. Lindros does not respect Quebec, our language and our culture—that he has nothing but contempt for the Quebec people."

What gives me to take that perception, we assume, is the fact the young Mr. Lindros has not publicly named his team as *King's-Edwards* or *to play to play*—and therefore lists as *Quebec City*. See, we said, those figures tend to give a perception of someone who, for whatever reason, would prefer to live elsewhere.

Anyway, and for the record, Team Canada coach Dave King didn't accept the advice of the three duly elected members of Parliament. "I was they'd spend more time balancing the budget and help taxpayers," was his immediate reaction. What isn't clear is whether Mr. King was also offering that suggestion to Prince Maurice Brousseau, who's been in the board room in comment on the 16-year-old hockey player's homecoming performance. See, we're not dealing with merely a junior hockey player, we're also into major-league politics. No wonder

*Think of our shame if one of our best athletic scrappers had been disqualified for saying 'puff on Prince Rupert'*

one must have said, what's good for hockey is good for Canada, or vice versa.

But the particular concern here is the possibility—that those qualified to represent us abroad must be proud of all Canada. We're still in the persuasion that anyone who refuses to live as a certain part of the country should be disqualified from serving us abroad. It's far to agree that, so far, only three MPs have expressed this idea, but we've all heard about the cloud of the Quebec Tory caucus. And a government of 36 points in the popularity polls must be watched for desperate acts.

Somewhere in the bowels of the bureaucracy, there's probably a group already working on some foreign-service application forms—yes, to be ordered with the group that's probably confederating. Eric's suggestion of moving Canada's capital to Winnipeg, and can't you just see the questions. "Have you or any members of your family ever obtained a transfer to any town in city in Canada, including Moose Factory?" "Have you or any members of your family ever commented adversely on the accounts of Newfoundland Airlines?"

"Will you please?"  
"In 600 words or more, describe your views of culture in northern British Columbia."

Naturally, all replies would go into the Great Computer—the one that may some day go to Winnipeg—and the results would come spilling out. "Sorry, sailor, you can't go to that particular win—it's about your contempt for Halifax."

As usual, of course, there would be special favors for members of Parliament, particularly for those who are in the Blue. Quebecers and, some day perhaps, many members of the Reform party. With, as you know, frequently carry Canada's flag abroad, with special emphasis on warm-weather countries during winter months. Surely, if anyone must be proud to represent all of Canada, it is our elected representatives in Parliament, the highest legislative body in the land.

We, the taxpayers, pay them to do that. Then good pay, too. We don't, incidentally, pay Eric Lindros. In that respect, we have something to commiserate with the Quebec Nordiques.

But wouldn't you like to be in the audience when a Blue Quebecer, Mr. qualifying for a position to Manila, is asked to explain, in English, why his repeated failure to attend the Kookaburra Festival should not be considered contemptuous of northern Canadians? Then, we could watch a newly elected Reform party MP react with similar fervor when asked, again in English, how he would react if traded to a Quebec City club for an aging Tory, and next year's third round legislative draft choice. If he fails to report, he'll be no part of that parliamentary delegation studying Okanagan usage returning in March.

No, this "puff to represent all of Canada" thing must be ripped to the top, not only because we do need more Canadian representatives abroad, but because we can't afford to give the country a black eye in sport. Just imagine how we would have looked last summer in Cuba when the Canadian and Mexican baseball teams had that spitting head-bashing brawl after one of ours, it is alleged, referred to an opponent as a "no-good, chin-wagging something or other." Think of our national shame if one of our best athletic scrappers had been disqualified for saying "puff on Prince Rupert."

It's a well-known fact that parliamentary recesses do funny things to MPs, like giving them too much thumb-twiddling time. But this business of language in 16-year-old hockey players' and our constitutional crisis is getting entirely out of hand.

And the solution is as simple. The federal government simply has to offer to build a new arena for the Montreal Canadiens on the condition, made recently, that they trade team captain Guy Chouinard to the Calgary Flames. By prior arrangement he would retire and, well, back, some star-scraper could be found to say he once heard Chouinard laugh at cowboy hats.

Our two founding peoples would once again feel equally united—the club that seems to hold us together. And Mr. Chouinard could enjoy a little rest for 45 years—and perhaps even play the odd game for Team Canada.

Stewart MacLeod is Ottawa columnist for Thomson News Service.

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